[Mr. A. Gunamony.]

There are only two points about which I would like to deal. One member stated about the appointment of committees. I believe the answer was given by Mr. Chellappan Pillai himself some time ago. I do not know whether our experience of local committee has been very encouraging, particularly in a matter like income tax assessment, nowhere in the world are there local committees. To make a departure in this case and to make an experiment with local bodies may not be very encouraging. The officers of the department are expected, as far as possible, to ascertain local opinion. For instance, I mentioned about officers going to certain localities and making contact with the local leaders. I am quite prepared to accept the suggestion, that local opinion should be ascertained, but it may not work satisfactorily if assessing officers are bound by opinion of local assessing committees.

MR. J. T. MORAES (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): What is the alternative work of these committees ?

MR. A. GUNAMONY : For example, you have the Collector. He wants to find out what is the annual yield as disclosed by registered lease deeds. That is where Tahsildars and local people can be of help. In proceeding with the assessment collectors will be guided by this Act of evidence.....(President's bell.)

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has the member considered the question of assessing a single member family and families with several members at the same rate ?

PRESIDENT : The time for the demand having elapsed it is my duty to put the question.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,65,413 under Demand XI—Taxes on Income was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIII—FOREST.

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKATESWARA AIYAR : I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 42,95,903 under Demand XIII—Forest.

Before placing this matter for the kind consideration of the House, I would like to make a few remarks as preface.

It may be observed from the Budget that the demand for 1122 is more than twice the demand for the year 1120 or the year 1121 and the House would certainly be in a better position to appreciate the Budget and offer constructive suggestions if I explain why it is so. The amount represents the expenditure proposed to be incurred on conservancy and works. The costs for the extraction of timber have been rising for the last three or four years, consistently with the rise in the wages of coolies and the difficulty of obtaining foodstuffs. This increase is reflected partly in the increase under expenditure. Also on account of the preparation of working plans for some of our most important divisions the amount of work has

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increased very largely as may be seen from the following figures. Take for instance the Quilon Division as it was some years back. In the year 1115 it had an area of 165 sq. miles. The average quantity of timber that was extracted from that area was 2 1/2 lakhs of c. ft. and the average annual gross revenue was Rs. 2 1/4 lakhs and the net revenue was about Rs. 1 lakh. The average area under annual planting was practically nil. At present when the Quilon and Shencottah Divisions have been combined into one, the area is 382 sq. miles. The quantity of timber that has been coming out for the last 2 to 3 years is 4 1/2 lakhs of c. ft. The annual average gross revenue has risen to nearly Rs. 10 lakhs, and the net revenue nearly Rs. 6 lakhs. According to the working plan which has been prepared and sanctioned by Government, the proposed area of the new Quilon Division would be 226 sq. miles. It was 165 sq. miles before. The quantity of timber that is expected to be extracted annually would be about 9,82,000 c. ft. which is more than double of what has been coming out in the last two or three years. The anticipated average gross revenue is Rs. 13¾ lakhs and the net revenue Rs. 7¾ lakhs. The extent of regeneration that is proposed to be undertaken in the Quilon Division would be on an average of 615 acres, per year, in conversion areas, which will be planted completely and the regeneration in the evergreen areas, where no regeneration was ever attempted before would come to the extent of 484 acres. It will therefore be clear that this increase in work necessarily entails bifurcation of the present Quilon and Shencottah combined Division into two divisions. This is one reason for the increase in expenditure.

Another reason is the formation of a division called the New Malayattur Division in the northern part of Travancore. In connection with the supply of a very large quantity of firewood, to the Fertiliser's factory, regeneration of the forest to the extent of more than a square mile per year will have to be undertaken and the total quantity of timber that is expected to be removed every year would be of the order of about 20 lakhs of c. ft. which is more than the total quantity of timber that is now coming out of the Travancore Forests every year. Therefore, for the organisation of the exploitation of timber as well as for the regeneration of forests a separate division is going to be formed. That is another reason for the extra expenditure provided in the Budget. It may also be pointed out that on account of the extra quantity of junglewood timber that is expected to come out in the year 1122 a very much larger amount has got to be provided as extraction cost. I place these aspects of the matter for the consideration of the House.

(The President left the House and the Deputy President occupied the chair.)

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: Sir, I move the following motion.

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 476 for Depot Officer by Re 1.'

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MR. P. M. VARGHESE : സർ, ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം ഞാൻ കൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു, ഓരോസ്ഥലത്തും ഡിപ്പോകൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഓരോസ്ഥലത്തുമുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കു് നേരിട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളെപ്പറ്റി പറയാനാണു്. തൊടുപുഴ താലൂക്കു് ധാരാളം വനങ്ങളുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥലമാണു്. എന്നാൽ അവിടെനിന്നും തടി വെട്ടിഇറക്കി വളരെ അകലെയുള്ള വെട്ടിക്കാട്ടുമുക്കു് മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുള്ള ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു്, ലേലത്തിൽ വില്ക്കുന്നു. തൊടുപുഴതാലൂക്കിൽ ആവശ്യമുള്ള തടികൾ അവക്കുതന്നെ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു് ഏർപ്പാടു ചെയ്യുമെങ്കിൽ അതു് ആ നാട്ടുകാർക്കു് വളരെ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. തൊടുപുഴനിന്നും തടി വെട്ടിക്കാട്ടുമുക്കിൽ ചെന്നു് വാങ്ങണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു കഷ്ടമാണു്.

MR. V. S. KRISHNA PILLAI : തൊടുപുഴ പ്ലാന്റേഷൻസ്സു് തടി വിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ ?

MR. P. M. VARGHESE : ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് തടി ആവശ്യമുള്ളപ്പോൾ വെട്ടിക്കാട്ടുമുക്കിൽ പോകണം. ആ തടി തിരിച്ചു് അവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരണം. തൊടുപുഴെ ആവശ്യമുള്ളതടി അവിടെ വിൽക്കുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമുണ്ടാക്കിയാൽ വളരെ ഉപകാരമായിരിക്കും. സാധാരണയായി എല്ലാ താലൂക്കിലും ഡിപ്പോകൾ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതാതു താലൂക്കിലുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കും തടി വാങ്ങാൻ സൌകര്യപ്പെടുമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : തൊടുപുഴ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന തടിയെല്ലാം വെട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അവിടെ തടി കിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. P. M. VARGHESE : വെട്ടിയാൽ പിന്നെയും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന തരത്തിലാണു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ തടികളുടെ രീതി. മുഖം വടിച്ചാൽ പിന്നെയും രോമം കിളിർത്തുവരുന്നതുപോലെ തടി പിന്നെയും ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കും.

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : The area round about Thodupuzha was until very recently very heavily wooded and I believe it is within the knowledge of the members of this House that a very large quantity of timber from private sources in and about Thodupuzha was sold to the War Department during the last 3 or 4 years. It is therefore quite apparent that there was absolutely no necessity for any timber to be supplied by the Forest Department to Thodupuzha and the surrounding areas, though they are the inhabitants. If the honourable member can prove to the

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satisfaction of Government that there is a real demand for timber round about Thodupuzha, Government would issue instructions to the Department to open depots to the extent necessary.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I move the following motion:

> To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,10,174 for Divisional Executive Establishment by Re. 1'.

My object in moving this motion is to point out that there is an unjustifiable increase in the expenditure of this Department. During the course of supplementary demand this year, we have had occasion to consider this aspect. One division was added during the middle of the year and that if I remember correct, is at Perunchani. Certain reasons were then given for the constitution of a division at Perunchani. With all the eloquence of my friend who guides the destinies of the Forest Department it was not then possible for me to understand that there was sufficient case for the constitution of the division at Perunchani. There is a heavy cost but there is a proportionately small income and as such I thought it is unjustifiable for this House to grant the demand for expenses of a division at Perunchanni. Unfortunately, that question was taken up at a time when many of the members were absent from this House and the demand was granted. Little did I know then that the Forest Department is going to spring a surprise upon us and two more divisions are now to be added. As such we have now to scrutinise the reasons that have been advanced for calling upon us to be parties to this additional expenditure. We are told that there is necessity for the constitution of a separate Shencottah division. We are further told that there is necessity for the constitution of a division at Malayattur. We are told that the extraction of timber is going to be increased both in respect of the present Shencottah division and what is going to be tomorrow's Malayattur division.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Order, order. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 O'clock tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 5 P. M.

S. VAIDYANATHA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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